

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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46-41

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Action

Classification

Control: 12692

EUR

Re: MAY 17, 1960

Info

FROM: PARIS

ORDR

11:28 PM

Info

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EUR/P

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: SECTO 28, MAY 17, MIDNIGHT

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SENT DEPARTMENT SECTO 28; REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 1077, BONN 507, MOSCOW 206

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

AS AGREED BY WESTERN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AT THEIR 10:00 A.M. MEETING MAY 17, THREE WESTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS MET 11:00 A.M. SAME DAY AT QUAI D'ORSAY TO PREPARE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE TO BE ISSUED BY THREE WESTERN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN EVENT SOVIET REFUSAL PARTICIPATE IN SUMMIT MEETING.

DISCUSSION CENTERED ON FRENCH DRAFT WHICH GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO SECRETARY EXCEPT FOR LANGUAGE WHICH IMPLIED ACCEPTANCE OF KHRUSHCHEV PROPOSAL THAT BEST WAY OUT OF PRESENT SITUATION IS TO "POSTPONE THE CONFERENCE OF THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FOR APPROXIMATELY 6-8 MONTHS". AMBIGUITY ELIMINATED FROM AGREED TEXT WHICH BEING WIRED SEPARATELY.

DURING MEETING LLOYD ASKED WHY PRESIDENT COULD NOT SAY HE WAS SORRY ABOUT U-2 INCIDENT AND TRY TO REMOVE THIS AS OBSTACLE TO SUMMIT MEETING. SECRETARY REPLIED HE COULD NOT SAY HE WAS SORRY FOR GOOD REASON HE WAS NOT. MOREOVER, HE DID NOT BELIEVE HE COULD SPECIFICALLY COMMIT PRESIDENT TO ATTEND SUMMIT MEETING WITH KHRUSHCHEV IN VIEW INSULTING LANGUAGE WHICH LATTER USED AND THE ATMOSPHERE CREATED THEREBY.

FOLLOWING AGREEMENT ON DRAFT TEXT SECRETARY REFERRED TO INVITATION WHICH DE GAULLE WAS ADDRESSING TO FOUR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

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-2- SECTO 28, MAY 17, MIDNIGHT, FROM PARIS

HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FOR FORMAL SUMMIT MEETING AT 3:00 P.M. MAY 17 AND THEN READ TEXT OF PROPOSED STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT SHOULD MAKE TO PRESS EXPLAINING ACCEPTANCE OF THIS INVITATION (TEXT SENT SEPARATELY).

COMMENTING ON TEXT LLOYD EXPRESSED HOPE THAT STATEMENT WOULD NOT BECOME PUBLICLY KNOWN UNTIL AFTER KHRUSHCHEV HAD REPLIED TO DE GAULLE INVITATION. SECRETARY REPLIED HE FELT IT ESSENTIAL ISSUE STATEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER APPROVAL BY PRESIDENT IN ORDER AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING OR GIVE SOVIETS GROUNDS FOR ACCUSING US OF MISLEADING THEM.

HERTER

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